



June 22, 2006

Dear Community Friends –

Home Burglaries: Facts, Trends and Security Tips

In the past month we've seen a citywide increase in residential burglaries. The South Precinct has seen an increase in residential burglaries as well with the sharpest increase occurring in the Rainier Beach area. Where we normally see about 13 burglaries a month in this area, in May 2006 we saw over 30. June is showing to be a high burglary month as well.

Based on incident reports, these recent burglaries most often occurred between 11am-4pm. Historically, the majority of burglaries occur during daytime when most people are away at work. Occupied burglaries are rare. They do occur, but not to an extensive degree. More often than not, the burglar does not want to encounter anyone or draw attention to themselves. They want to get in, get the stuff and get out.

- Those of you who are home during the day, take the time to occasionally check outside and see what's happening on your block. If you see something suspicious, call it in. Alert neighbors are the best crime deterrent and burglar alarm.

A common point of entry has been an open/unlocked bathroom or kitchen window. In a great number of burglaries, the burglar comes through an open/unlocked door or window. As we hit the warm weather months – and people leave doors and windows open for ventilation – we see an even further increase in no-force burglaries

- This is why we continue to stress that you close and lock your doors and windows anytime you are away from home. Let's not make it easy for the criminal.

In the majority of burglaries, the suspects gain entry by force, usually by forcing open a rear door, breaking in through a ground level or

basement window, or breaking the glass upper panel of the back/side door and reaching through the broken pane to unlock the door.

- Exterior doors should be strong enough to withstand excessive force. We recommend solid core wood, metal or other reinforced doors. Reinforce your door jams or jam braces.
- All exterior doors should be secured with a deadbolt lock that has a minimum one-inch throw.
- All strike plates and frames for exterior doors should be anchored to the home's main construction. Use three-inch long screws in the strike plates to secure the door jam to the frame studs
- High-risk windows (basement, garage, ground-level, partially or totally secluded, latched, etc.) should be secured sufficiently enough to discourage or impede possible intrusion.

Burglars often check to see if someone is home first. If someone is home they come up with some story as to why they knocked on your door and then go on down the road to another residence where someone is not home.

- When someone comes to your door, answer the door. You want the person on the other side of the door to know someone is home. Answering the door does not mean opening the door. Always know who's on the other side of that door before you open it, even if you are expecting someone.
- The main entrance door should have a wide-angle (180 degree) viewer/peephole.
- It's okay to talk to the person through the door. Don't worry about being rude: your safety is more important than their feelings.

We'll cover more on home security in future newsletters. Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon, South Precinct Crime Prevention



Night Out Against Crime 2006 is Tuesday, August 1st:

South Precinct Registration for Night Out 2006

If you intend to host a Night Out event and wish to register your event with us, you must register by July 24, 2006.

Please register on-line using the following link:

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/police/Nightout/SouthRegister.htm>

This year the Seattle Police Department is honored to partner with Verizon Wireless' HopeLine Program for this year's Night Out. HopeLine began in 1995 with a commitment to provide voicemail boxes and emergency wireless phones to victims of domestic violence living in shelters. In 2001 it branched out into recycling and re-using donated phones. By the end of 2005 HopeLine had collected more than 2.5 million phones and donated more than \$1 million to organizations engaged in raising awareness and prevention of domestic violence.

We are asking blocks that would like to participate by donating old phones and accessories, to designate one person who will be responsible for getting all the donations they collect to their local precinct. For those blocks that would like to make this a centerpiece of their Night Out celebration, donation boxes will be available at the precincts two weeks prior to Night Out.

If you would like additional information or would like to volunteer for this program contact **Dana Lockhart** at **(206) 615-0890**.

Thanks for your participation and have a safe and enjoyable Night Out!